

REMARKS

Appropriate subject headings have been added to the specification. Also a claim to foreign priority has been added after the title on page 1. Additional amendments have been made to improve the syntax of the claims.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference numeral (17).

Reconsideration is requested.

Attached hereto are a Replacement Sheet for Fig. 9 and an Annotated Sheet Showing Drawings for Fig. 9 marked in red ink. Reference numeral (17) has been included in these drawings. Support for this addition can be found in the specification at page 8, lines 5-7. No new matter has been added. Therefore it is requested that the 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Document EP 0 976 346 A2 (hereinafter "EP '346").

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 7 and therefore this rejection is rendered moot.

It is therefore requested that the examiner withdraw the §102 rejection of claim 1.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '346 in view of Lerich, United States Patent No. 3,967,525 (hereinafter "Lerich")

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 2 is dependent on amended claim 1 and therefore also includes the subject matter of original claim 7. Based on the new recitations in claim 1 this rejection is rendered moot. It is therefore requested that the §103 rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '346 in view of European Patent Document EP 0 972 466 A2 (hereinafter "EP '466").

Reconsideration is requested.

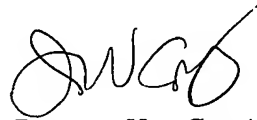
EP '346 discloses a connection device for joining a support structure, such as a leg, to a table or desk. EP '466 discloses a device for joining a support structure to a connecting device. There is no suggestion in the above cited prior art for combining the two devices into one tubular frame structure that allows for joining an expandable cylindrical body to a tubular frame structure as disclosed in the present invention. The only suggestion of the attachment of a supporting structure to EP '346 is in col. 3, lines 49-55, wherein it states "a nut 34 may be used, which is screwed directly on threaded shaft 35 extending centrally from a disk 36 fixed to the leg 33 ... or else a bolt 37 may be used which screws through a threaded hole 38 of a disk 39 fixed to the leg 33." There is no suggestion of the use of an expandable cylindrical body being placed within a hollow cylindrical support structure which is subsequently expanded to lock the support structure in place (see specification page 7, line 20 to page 8 line 13).

It is therefore requested that the above §103 rejection be withdrawn.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of Claims 1-6 are now allowable over the prior art and that the present application is in proper form for allowance.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JVC', is written over the printed name.

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ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES



Fig.9

